

## HONORING NATIONAL VOICES FOR EQUALITY, EDUCATION AND EN- LIGHTENMENT

### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional work of National Voices for Equality, Education and Enlightenment (NVEEE) in combatting bullying and instilling the values of acceptance and love in the students of our South Florida community.

Since 2009, NVEEE has worked tirelessly to prevent bullying, violence and suicide as well as create a safe space for students and adults to seek counseling and support. Led by Jowharah Sanders, a fierce advocate for today's youth, NVEEE has educated thousands of children through engaging workshops, mentorships and direct service. I applaud their efforts in addressing the root causes of bullying and the challenges children face as they mature.

As a mother and a Member of the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus, it is with great honor that I recognize National Voices for Equality, Education and Enlightenment.

## IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL B. STAEBLER, A LEADER IN MICHIGAN'S LEGAL COMMUNITY

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael B. Staebler, a leader in Michigan's legal community, on the day of his retirement. Mr. Staebler has served the state of Michigan in a variety of roles throughout his distinguished career.

Mr. Staebler graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1969 and has extensive experience in the legal field. From 1975 to 1980, Mr. Staebler was the president and CEO of Michigan Capital and Service Inc., a Small Business Investment Corporation (SBIC) that provided financing for small businesses in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has served on several advisory boards and trade groups, including working on the Small Business Committee of the American Bar Association. Mr. Staebler has also been a partner for Pepper Hamilton, LLP, where he led the firm's practice on the formation and development of SBICs.

Mr. Staebler's work with Pepper Hamilton has focused on small business financing. As a partner of the firm and leader of its SBIC practice, he has helped create over 270 SBICs, which have provided startup funding for hundreds of small businesses across the country. Additionally, Mr. Staebler serves as co-chair of the firm's Funds Services Group, a division of

the firm that provides advisory services for investment advisors and managers. He has served as counsel to numerous venture capital and public employee pension funds to help them better manage their investment activities.

Mr. Staebler has been active in a variety of community groups and nonprofit organizations. He has been the director for the American Heart Association and Legal Aid as well as the Defender's Association of Michigan. Mr. Staebler has also utilized his small business expertise to promote economic development in the state of Michigan. He has worked as the director of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Ann Arbor SPARK, public-private partnerships that encourage entrepreneurship and business formation in Michigan. In addition, Mr. Staebler has supported individual rights and freedoms through his involvement with the American Civil Liberties Union. He served as co-chair of the ACLU Michigan Annual Dinner in 2011 and 2012 and has been instrumental in helping provide resources and raising awareness on behalf of the organization.

Mr. Staebler has been widely acclaimed for his work and has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America by his peers. He is recognized as one of the foremost experts in the area of small business financing and has lectured extensively on his experiences in his practice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the career and achievements of Michael B. Staebler. His achievements in business and the community are a testament to his hard work and character, and his outstanding work on behalf of the state of Michigan have been critical to driving innovation and attracting jobs to the state.

## SUPPORTING THE D. RAY JAMES CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

### HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, only in Washington could it make sense to heap praise and award a bonus to a contractor just two weeks before you try to cancel their contract. That's exactly what the Department of Justice (DOD and Bureau of Prisons (BOP) are trying to do in my district to the D. Ray James Correctional Facility in Folkston, Georgia.

Despite the fact that D. Ray James has been rated "superior" by BOP in each of the last three years, and operates \$3,000 more efficiently per inmate than its federal peers, bureaucrats at the DOJ and BOP are threatening to shut it down. This stems from an unsubstantiated DOJ report that admits they didn't study several critical factors during their review, and a politically motivated attempt to shut down prisons holding illegal aliens, with no plan on how to deal with them.

In the balance are nearly 500 jobs in my district and thousands more across the county.

To make matters worse, the BOP extended D. Ray James' contract just a day before trying to go back on its word. Better yet, the author of the report—Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates—and officials from the Bureau of Prisons are refusing to take my call to explain their actions or answer my questions. The simple truth is the facts do not support their conclusion and they are afraid to admit it.

The American people are sick and tired of a bureaucracy run amok and there is perhaps no better example than this, from the same Administration that accidentally gave more than 1800 illegal aliens bound for deportation full American citizenship last year. I call on the BOP and DOJ to honor their commitment to the outstanding employees at D. Ray James and at private correctional facilities across the country. It's time for them to stop stonewalling the efforts of Congress to hold them accountable for their actions.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for votes taken on the House floor on May 25, 2016, missing Roll Call Vote Number 250. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Number 250: NAY

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on the Motion to Order the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 5711 and H.R. 5982, I would have voted "no." Had the Motion to Order the Previous Question failed, Ms. SLAUGHTER would have been able to offer her amendment to the Rule, which would have made in order Mr. SARBANES' bill H.R. 6324. H.R. 6324 is important legislation that would amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to prevent registered lobbyists from serving on Presidential Transition Teams.

Additionally, had I been present for the vote on H. Res. 921, I would have voted "no." H. Res. 921 is the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 5711, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and H.R. 5982, the Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2016. I oppose these bills.